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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,637	08/15/2001	Richard J. Washebeck	1430-00015	1900

7590 01/29/2004
Paul F Donovan
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EXAMINER

BERMAN, JACK I

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2881

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2881

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonner (043) in view of Spence (659) and Pieper (240) for the reasons explained in the previous Office action for the rejection of claims 1-12 and 14.

Applicant's arguments filed October 6, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Specifically, Applicant argues:

“Thus, Bonner does not teach or suggest that the electrode magazine moves parallel to the electrode support tube between the operative and inoperative positions as now recited in amended claim 1.”

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However, the actual rejection made was that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use Pieper's guide rails to attach the electrode assembly/magazine to Bonner's support tube instead of the L-shaped slots used by Bonner. This would have been an obvious substitution of equivalent parts.

Similarly, Applicant argues that Spence fails to teach or suggest the combination claimed in claim 10; but the rejection was based on the combination of Bonner, Spence, and Pieper.

With respect to claim 11, Applicant argues that it distinguishes over the prior art because:

“Claim 11 recites that the high voltage connection enables a hands-free connection between the electrodes and the power supply when the electrode magazine is in the operative position, and permits disconnection of the electrodes from the power supply when the electrode magazine is in the inoperative position. None of the cited references teach or suggest such limitations.”

These limitations are all purely functional without the recitation of any structural limitations to support these functions. Such functional limitations cannot serve to patentably distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art.

With respect to claim 14, Pieper teaches at line 38 in column 3 through line 5 in column 4 how sliding movement of an electrode along a rail can simultaneously permit incremental raising and lowering of the electrode to enable incremental adjustment of a gap between the electrode and a material to be treated. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use Pieper's rail system to adjust the position of Bonner's electrode magazine.

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims:

Claims 13 and 18 allowed.

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The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
The prior art does not suggest making the front end plate in a corona discharge device slidably movable relative to a support tube so that the front end plate defines a universal mounting plate adapted to be connected to various frames of a printing press.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack I. Berman whose telephone number is (703) 308-4849. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00) with every second Friday off.

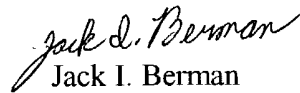
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Lee can be reached on (703) 308-4116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9318.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Jack I. Berman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2881

jb
January 24, 2004